

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS SELECT BOARD
BUDGET HEARING
TUESDAY JANUARY 11, 2022***

***Select Board Present: Betsy Coes, Jacquelyn Silvani & Michael Sununu
Others Include: Town Residents***

Call to order at 7:36 pm.

Michael presented the formal Town Budget to the public as follows:

Article 1. Shall the Town of Newfields raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$1,833,099? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$1,684,120, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Newfields or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Select Board recommends the \$1,833,099 as set forth on said budget.

Michael went over the individual line items making up the \$1,833,099 such as General Government – Town Offices; Police & Fire departments; Highways & Streets; Sanitation; Health; Welfare; Library and Long-Term Debt and the various revenue sources.

Michael read the remaining Warrant Articles and addressed all questions of the attendees.

Jeff explained why his budget increased. Currently, the Fire department is having a hard time finding volunteers who will respond to calls. The department also has many older members who will be retiring in the next few years. The new strategy is to pay on-call and stipends to encourage volunteers to respond to calls.

Article 2. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established, for the future purchase of a new fire truck? (Majority vote required)

Article 3. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to be added to the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund? (Majority vote required)

Article 4. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to sell the municipally owned property located at 75 Main Street, (Tax Map 102-78) comprised of 0.435 acres of land and the building commonly referred to as the Main Street Art building to the Newfields Water & Sewer District? This land and building will be sold for \$1 with a condition of sale that the Town Offices and Fire Department will receive sewer and water services at no charge for 10 years from the date of

closing. Other terms and conditions of the sale will be at the discretion of the Select Board.
(Majority vote requires)

Article 5. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum \$5,000 for the 175th Town Celebration festivities. (Majority vote required)

Article 6. By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the Town of Newfields, to see if the town will go on record opposing the retail sale of dogs and cats in pet stores in the town. This resolution is necessary because the majority of dogs and cats sold in pet stores are sourced from large-scale, inhumane commercial breeding facilities commonly called “puppy mills”. The record of this vote shall be transmitted by written notice from the selectmen to the town’s state legislators and to the Governor of New Hampshire.

This Budget will be presented at the Deliberative Session on February 8th at 7:00. At such time, the public may address the budget and make revisions prior to it being finalized and voted on March 8th.

At 8:02 pm, Michael motioned, seconded by Betsy, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kisha Therrien